

Higgins, Frank Carolus

[Chicago, IL]

Nov 1905-1910

Frank C. Higgins

To the Voters

—of—

The American Numismatic Association.

Dear Sir:—

This is going to be a curiosity in A. N. A. campaign letters, because it is not going to solicit your vote for the office for which I am candidate, nor is it written by me, to hand over to someone else, who could not write it, if he tried, to sign in my behalf. I care absolutely nothing about the alleged "honor" of being President of the A. N. A. There would be more hard-work in the office to me than anything else, because I am out to fight the retrograde, time-wasting, self-complacent inanity which prevails, and I am going to fight it and continue to fight it, whether elected or not, as long as I remain a member of the Association, and the order of things is not materially changed.

I have just been reading the complaints of the gentlemen who owns the official organ and five-sixths of the revenues of the A. N. A., and the "things to be considered in the A. N. A. campaign" by an office-holder who dares to attempt to dictate a campaign policy from what he impertinently calls "the standpoint of the Association."

Now, I am simply a straightforward, hard-headed, matter-of-fact, individual, with a good deal of red blood, who looks a thing squarely in the face and has an unpleasant way of puncturing bubbles of sophistry and demagoguism.

I have also considered a few things with regard to the A. N. A. campaign, and I am not afraid to tell you straight out what they are, and abide by the result of my frankness.

This address might have been milder in tone had not "**Far-ran Zerbe, P. O. Box 876, Philadelphia**" issued on July 14th a circular which you have probably read, in which he boldly as-

serts as a fact, the proposition which we all know to be a fact, but which the Henderson-Dealer crowd are running away from, that HE is the great Henderson-Dealer backer, and that he feels that the success of the Henderson-Dealer ticket is above all of the greatest possible personal importance to the gentleman who pockets the gate receipts,—HIMSELF.

He repeats the good old campaign lie about the Vice-President being the heir to the presidency, which the Henderson-Dealer coterie had gotten pliant Secretary Duffield to repudiate for them, and he states that I have been "circulating quietly and anonymously that which has been denunciation of the present administration, and very abusive of him personally." To you who receive this, I shall have no requirement to denounce this as a lie cut out of the whole cloth (I believe that Mr. Zerbe had some experience in cutting things out of cloth before going into the coin business) because I have been reserving my entire comment on the situation on the principle laid down by a famous military hero, "Don't fire boys until you can see the whites of their eyes." At the present moment the "whites of the eyes" of the Henderson-Dealer party are the most conspicuous features of their anatomies, and this is absolutely the first document of any description whatsoever that I have issued. The reader will be able to draw his own conclusions.

METHODS.

Mr. Zerbe, in the July "Numismatist," deprecates an attempt to bring an influence into the government of the A. N. A. which is entirely foreign to its purposes, and detract from the organization's "position and influence," as well as to be "entirely foreign to what has governed the Association in the past." Well, what is the position and influence of the A. N. A., except as it is **when permitted** to be, the vehicle of the expression of the ideas, discoveries and aspirations of the best and most learned numismatic talent in the United States of America.

Is such a man at the head of the Association to-day? Is such a man proposed as the head of the Association for to-morrow?

If so, elect him by all means.

The criterion of numismatic science is set by the great and learned numismatic bodies of Europe. Stand them on a platform beside such men as Sir John Evans, Barclay V. Head, Daniel F. Howarth, Herbert Grueber, or P. Carlyon Britton, and ask yourself, how long our would-be Dictators could maintain an intelligent conversation with one of these Princes of Numismatic science on a numismatic topic involving history, sociology, paleography, use of dead and foreign languages, and knowledge of numismatic mechanisms and metallurgy. I hear the bell of the ambulance in the distance, but who will it carry away?

It is only natural that the creatures which love darkness scurry to their holes when the light is let into a dark cellar through long-closed windows. You will be asked to consider these few facts as a monstrous attack upon the A. N. A., but you have sense enough to know that it is not. It would be an attack upon the A. N. A. if the A. N. A. were to be as closely identified with the individualities of the Henderson-Dealer party plus Zerbe as they would like to have it. It is the very fact that I am showing the A. N. A. member the hand-writing on the wall, which they would like to keep covered up that I am drawing upon myself the invective of the scored ones.

What is the past of the A. N. A.? That of a subscription list to a monthly periodical which for a long time gave a dollars worth of coins and a membership as a premium on its subscription. What is it to-day but the same subscription list greatly augmented and enlarged, paying five-sixths of its revenues to the OWNER of that publication who is also the "de-facto" President of the A. N. A. and playing the fact up strong on the advertising literature of travelling lecture tours upon which nobody receives the revenues but himself. In the meantime, numismatic science in America has produced Huntingdons, Tremblays, Brands, Granbergs, Drownes, Wilsons, Moritzs, Dunhams, Bretons, Woodins, Adams, and perhaps two score of others of greater or less degree, in as startling a contrast to the collector of flotsam and jetsam, as the Metropolitan building here is bigger than a Colorado mining shack.

Do you see such men ignorant of all numismatic development except that which they find on the pages of the

To the Voters of the American Numismatic Association

“Numismatist.” Do you notice them looking up to the chief officer of the American Numismatic Association for guidance and counsel, or do you find them a generation of giants good naturedly humoring an oligarchy of pygmies and wondering what funny things will happen next.

Men of large calibre are becoming restless, they want a truly national numismatic association, big enough to hold them, not one that they can put in their pockets and walk off with. They are good-naturedly willing **that the A. N. A. shall rise to its opportunities and grow great**, and they will help it to do so, but only on consideration that it be in the hands of a united body of officers who can give it the necessary swing and broad character they require.

The new collector, the beginner—requires the presence of such big men in the Association, which he joins for the purpose of profiting by contact with them, and learning and developing as a student of numismatic science. He wants men who can teach it as a science, not dealers and speculators in meaningless rarities, which so few can possess. He does not want the big men of the Association to desert it, because of its pettiness, and he will therefore find his own best interest served in securing the safety of the A. N. A. in responsible hands.

Mr. Zerbe attempts to squirt his squid-like sepia over the several documents of our modest propaganda. He tries to make the A. N. A. voter think that the printed proxy we issue is not an official proxy, and therefore may be invalid. Let me call your attention to the fact that at previous conventions proxies have been written out on the back of an envelope in pencil and validly voted. **THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS AN OFFICIAL PROXY** to the exclusion of all others, no more than there is an official mouth-piece of the A. N. A. to declare who the next officers are to be, according to the will of the retiring ones. Send us back our proxy ballot duly signed and **DATED**, and we will take care of the rest.

PERSONALITIES.

There is a great deal of talk about “Personalities which should not be indulged in by the dwellers in glass houses.” From four to eight dealers are preaching “Non-commercial Numis-

matics," whatever that may imply to unremitting dickerers in coins, because *one* other dealer has expressed an opinion as to my fitness to serve the A. N. A.

I have been perhaps more particular than in any other respect in scanning the criticisms of my opponents, and I have never been able to trace them away from one particular source or to find a single coherent **idea**, logically expressed, in one of them. To the man who is not on a watch-tower, able to sweep his range of vision over the entire country, it would seem as if the criticisms which are flowing about just now, were spontaneous and unconnected; but when a man is running for office he naturally keeps his eye on what the opposition is doing. And so it has been easy for me to perceive that a campaign of personal appeals for proxies has been carried on over the country all emanating and all inspired from the one source, and mainly dictated by the same pen.

This epistolary solicitation of proxies is an old dodge of Mr. Zerbe's. I have in my possession, as doubtless many of you have preserved in your archives, choice samples of the bushels of personal letters sent out by one who says that "the office should seek the man", soliciting, begging and praying to be elected President of the A. N. A., and I have also a document in which he promises that if he is elected he will not be a dealer any more.

These are the past methods of A. N. A. campaigns and the ones which have resulted in people against whom the entire intelligent sense of the A. N. A., gathered in convention, has been arrayed, complacently rising and electing themselves to office through proxies secured from the indifferent, the unacquainted and the uninitiated in the higher aspects of numismatic work.

This should not be repeated at Montreal.

A precipitous movement has been made to rush in proxies and postal cards promising adhesion from members unacquainted with the real issue, and in many cases these appeals have been responded to through sheer good-nature and without thought, but who among you, having subscribed to an elaborate and expensive volume on the assurances of a glib book agent, armed with a fancy prospectus would agree to accept and pay for a work not up to sample.

Every member who has sent in a proxy without a clear un-

derstanding of the issues involved **HAS A RIGHT TO SEND IN ANOTHER.** This should be the means taken by A. N. A. voters to reply to the methods used by the "One-Year-Old-in-the-Association" campaign manager of the Henderson-Dealer ticket. The praters against "Personalities" who dislike rugged truths boldly expressed, have been augmenting Uncle Sam's postal revenues for weeks past by the circulation of the most condemnable personalities, but when they hear themselves and their methods discussed in public, they cry, "How personal, how shocking!"

THE OPPOSITION SUPPORTERS.

The supporters of the Henderson-Dealer ticket talk a great deal with their vocal organs about plain talk concerning themselves being a dragging of the Association name in the mud.

If there is no mud at the bottom of a stream you can stir it up with a stick as much as you please and the water won't get dirty. The term of "mud-throwing" is not of my introduction. I merely tear the paper from the wall and reveal the material with which the edifice is plastered. If the opposition call it mud, then the mud is not mine.

THE LOUISIANA GOLD QUESTION.

There were placed on sale at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition a pair of coins which were labeled "Gold" on their face, and were advertised in thousands of printed circulars as being made of gold "mined from the Louisiana territory," which of course has the wide application of all the land conceded by Napoleon in 1803.

They have been among the best selling tokens ever placed before the collecting public. They were claimed to be of "Semi-official" character, but when through the interest of French collectors in former French territorial possessions they found their way to France, the agents who introduced them were forced to cease handling them by the threats of the Paris police.

This led to a tardy assay of the pieces in New York, to ascertain their real character, and they showed up to be 6 or 7 karat gold alloyed brass, so low grade in fact that they had to

be plated with a chemical solution of gold to show a proper color.

They sold at the Exposition for 65 and 35c respectively.

They turn out to have an intrinsic value of only 14 and 7c respectively. As to their official character, **they are repudiated by the administration of the St. Louis World's Fair.** The coin dealer who produced this gold "mined in Louisiana" is at present receiving five-sixths of the revenues of the American Numismatic Association, of which he is the retiring President, in the shape of subscriptions to his paper. He calls reference to this fine numismatic record an attempt to detract from the organization's position and influence, and his secretary calls it "dragging the name of the A. N. A. in the gutter."

You, Mr. Voter, have a right to know just how so astute a dealer gained possession of the Association's official organ and promised Dr. Henderson, of Columbus, Ohio, that he would help him to succeed him when he retired from the presidency which he now holds.

If this is not true, as Dr. Henderson NOW claims, why did Mr. Zerbe state to the Committee that waited on him with a nomination of the New York Numismatic Club, that he could accept the nomination for himself (which he temporarily did) but that he could not support anybody else because he had pledged his support to Dr. Henderson. If more attesting facts than these are wanted refer to the Zerbe Circular of July 14th in support of Dr. Henderson. Mr. Voter, decide right here whether this is data which ought to be before you or ought to be withheld from you when you select your candidates for the next government of the A. N. A.

THE COLUMBUS PLATFORM.

What is it? How is it? Where is it, Or is is it? What has been put forward up to date as a valid argument why you should vote the Henderson-Dealer ticket? It is stated that the Presidency of the A. N. A. is an honor, that the first Vice-President is always entitled to this honor when his predecessor steps down and out; that Dr. Henderson was a very good guide and **cicerone** to the strangers in Columbus at the time of the Columbus convention. Shades of Thomas Cook & Sons, why can't we get a professional tourist guide and be done with it. What did Dr.

Henderson's courtesies for the 50 visitors to his home town, do for the 600 members of the A. N. A. who never went near it, and how grateful are the stay-at-home 600 in duty bound to be!

DEALER-CAMPAIGN TACTICS.

What have the Henderson-Dealer party been doing to advertise themselves since they started to claim honors for honor's sake? The ticket nominated by the New York Numismatic Club was a death-blow to the hopes entertained by certain gentlemen of walking through to victory in this campaign without firing a gun. The first attempt to side-track my candidacy was Mr. Zerbe's editorial utterance about a West against East issue. But when it dawned on sensible Westerners that there was not a genuinely western candidate available for the presidency who would consent to run, and that Columbus was absolutely in the East as regards the real West, that the Henderson-Ashbrook coalition had its rise in the longtime residence of Mr. Zerbe in that town, and it was seen that there was no sympathy felt by any of the **real** westerners for such a flimsy pretense, Mr. Duffield was made the mouth-piece of a disavowal of a West against East policy, which was originally expected to carry the day. The historical fallacy of vice-presidential succession, was exploded by the protest of dozens of old members who knew that no such precedent existed. And so that has been withdrawn.

Mr. Zerbe causes us to again scrutinize our proxy ballot for the candidates whom he says have declined to run. We find Mr. F. G. Duffield withdrawn for listening too hard to "His master's voice." Ben G. Green, of Chicago, Ills., refuses to be librarian or hold any other office. We think it must be remorse, but we don't hold it against him. At any rate, he is still in possession, or at last accounts was, of the library, which the whole Zerbe family did not remove to the populous metropolis of Tyrone, after having solicited it. Mr. Dunham is on both tickets and really has declined to run on either, but he is universally beloved and gentle persuasion is being exerted by his friends on both sides. He will be elected, and we will make him serve.

Beyond this the only refusals to accept nominations have been the following refusals to serve on the Henderson-Dealer

ticket, which we shall now proceed to enumerate; they got the refusals, not we.

Our candidate, Mr. W. W. C. Wilson, of Montreal, was importuned for days by the leaders of the Dealer party to desert our ticket and array himself under the Henderson-Dealer banner.

Our candidate, Mr. Granberg, who signed a hearty letter of acceptance, approving of my candidacy, and views upon which it is based, promising to support me to the extent of his ability, was inveigled by the Henderson-Dealer Committee into an appearance of stultifying himself by their publication of his signature appended to the full text of a document **from which he had scratched every single phrase which could possibly conflict with his previously expressed conviction.** This we have over Mr. Granberg's own signature of recent date. "We leave it to the ordinary business sense of any member of the A. N. A. as to whether this misuse of its citizen's signature should not, did it apply to a commercial transaction, be indictable as FORGERY. Is any voter of the A. N. A. proud to throw his ballot for candidates so insatiate for office that they would employ such methods.

Another signer of that widely circulated letter, condoling with Doctor Henderson on the way in which opposition had been manifested to him in a dealer's catalogue has signed the following recantation:

"I signed the letter advocating Dr. Henderson very hastily, without absorbing the meaning of the opening paragraph. I expressed my regret that I read the letter advocating Dr. Henderson hurriedly and not carefully enough to notice that it raised a question of the impropriety of the advocacy by a dealer of a candidate and signed it without noticing this reflection in it."

The gentleman whose signature is appended to the above declaration on letters in our possession is no less than Mr. S. Hudson Chapman of Philadelphia, who when he meets you in Montreal will not attempt to deny this first because he is a gentleman, and second because we shall have the letters with us.

Our candidate, Mr. Edgar H. Adams, who is also a member of our campaign committee, was solicited from his allegiance by the offer of the first vice-presidency on the Henderson-Dealer ticket.

He informed Secretary Duffield that he would not accept this nomination in full time for it to have been kept out of the June "Numismatist," but it was placed on record so that for one month readers of the "Numismatist" were kept under the false impression that Mr. Adams was the supporter of our opponents.

Our candidate, Mr. P. O. Tremblay, of Montreal, was then offered the first vice-presidency on the Henderson-Dealer ticket if he would desert us, but like the gentleman he is, he stuck to his guns and is with us yet.

Finally, we notified Secretary Duffield of our nomination of Mr. Howland Wood, of Boston, for member of the board of governors, well in advance of the publication of the July "Numismatist." On the flimsy pretext that he had had his proxies printed and stored up for some time previously, accompanied by a ticket which he had no precedent whatever for appending to such proxies, and that the said nomination was not addressed to him in his full title as "Secretary of the American Numismatic Association" he did not forward the same to Mr. Zerbe in time to be published in the "Numismatist", therefore, leaving the nomination of Mr. Howland Wood practically unheralded until the convention shall be fairly upon us, and all of the proxies practically endorsed without him.

I challenge this as a dastardly and insolent attempt to sidetrack the brightest intellect which has burned at the service of the American Numismatic Association for the last five years, if not longer. A man to whose intellect, honesty and uprightness the American Numismatic Association owes its continued existence against the manifold abuses of which it has been the victim: The true bone, sinew and brains of the whole Zerbe administration period in spite of manifold handicaps, whose counsel and protests have kept the establishment from falling. He stands as a menace to the control of the A. N. A. by the Henderson-Dealer party, who have got to redeem their present campaign pledges for many years to come by passing the office along to their one year old generalissimo and others of like weight.

Mr. Wood IS nominated and should be on every proxy for member of the board of governors, while awaiting his acceptance of the greater honors which we reserve for him. His nomination will appear in "Mehl's Monthly" and may be acted upon as if the partisan "Numismatist" had no existence.

THE DEALER ISSUE.

You are, Mr. Voter, entitled to a reason for calling the opposition to this ticket, the Henderson-Dealer Party. Just cast your eye over the bunch of backers, supporters, sympathizers, condolers and letter-writers crowing for Henderson by one mail and offering you numismatic bargains by another. Are you not wise enough to see that all their drivell is directed by dealer enmity of a successful trade rival, whom I am proud to call my friend, but whom I do not care a bean whether you patronize or not commercially, because I strongly suspect that he is able to look out for his own interests, having set so many of his Henderson-supporting competitors frothing at the mouth with rage.

MY SERVICE TO NUMISMATICS.

Don't ask me. Look over the back numbers of the "Numismatist"; look over the back issues of "Spink's Circular." Don't ask the coin dealers, because I never did one of them a commercial service in my life. A good many dealers seem to have the ambition to possess a tame officer of the A. N. A., to pull chestnuts out of the fire for them and influence the purchases of amateurs. Therefore, while this campaign is on, just notice how most of the dealers talk Henderson, and most of the lay-Henderson supporters quote the indignation of prominent dealers that he should have any opposition.

THE NUMISMATIST.

Mr. Zerbe says that "the future of the Numismatist is placed in jeopardy." It is pretty hard to place it where it has always been, but never so much as since it passed from the hands of the good old-fashioned peace-loving Michigan doctor, who founded the A. N. A., and reflected through it during his life the sun-beams of his own happy disposition. Since Mr. Zerbe took over the "Numismatist" every ounce of brains connected with it, with the exception of a few desultory contributions, have been supplied by Edgar H. Adams, Howland Wood and the writer of the present document (now in contempt with the editor).

To the Voters of the American Numismatic Association

Mr. Zerbe's contributions have consisted exclusively of editorial squiblets, the numismatic value of which may be judged by looking back over a few numbers and ADVANCE notices of the sales of his brother dealers, supplied by themselves as the most notable achievements in American numismatics.

Of the news of real doings, there has been next to nothing. Of the sales of other dealers than the favored few, there have been some beautiful displays of blank white paper, and laterally since this little friendly intellectual struggle has been bubbling, the "Numismatist" has so far forgotten Numismatics as to become the organ of Mr. Zerbe's naughty temper, which he confounds with the "honor of the A. N. A."

I do notice in the July issue a choice collection of puffs for people who Mr. Zerbe hopes will be opposed to me.

Since Mr. Zerbe has been prominent in A. N. A. politics, there has been another organ started which gives almost as much for fifty cents a year as Mr. Zerbe gives for a dollar and a quarter.

It is not suggested that any other paper be constituted the official organ of the American Numismatic Association now, but if with the Henderson-Dealer crowd in possession, the "Numismatist" continued much farther, it might be necessary to demonstrate to Mr. Zerbe that his was not the only geranium in the conservatory. If Mr. Zerbe proves that the subscription list to the "Numismatist" is the A. N. A. he affords the greatest and most convincing argument that the right kind of an A. N. A. ought to be completely divorced from such an alliance.

If the A. N. A. has a right to choose or reject its own official organ at will, then Mr. Zerbe is called upon to keep quiet until he is told what to do.

A FINAL WORD.

I have written the foregoing calmly, dispassionately and without temper. It is directed to the support of ethical numismatics. The document issued by our campaign committee will put our plain program before you. I do not ask for your votes. Your intelligence will dictate to you whether you can consistently extend them to the principles we represent. **These principles will stand and be upheld no matter what the result at the Montreal Convention.** I am not standing alone, but I

represent the aspiration and sentiments of the most advanced elements of the A. N. A. If they are numerically inferior to the great body of voters who will need their aid to develop the latter can come forward and help hold them at the top of the A. N. A. where they belong, but no power on earth can ever put them at the bottom. If I am elected, there will be an administration to which the future recorder of A. N. A. history may refer with pride. If I am not elected, I will stand as a defender of the interests which I have been asked to represent. The rest is with you.

Very sincerely yours,

FRANK C. HIGGINS.

—o—o—

FINAL WARNING !

To A. N. A. Members Who Do Not Want to Lose Their Ballots.

The last budget of campaign circulars from the Henderson-Dealer interest show that having exhausted the resources of buncombe and invective to make a showing of fitness for office, they are in their last throes of distress setting about monkeying with the ballots of the voters.

A. N. A. Voters are advised that only a nomination through Mr. Zerbe's paper is valid. This is a LIE. A belated nomination may and will be confirmed at the Convention and votes in readiness for its subject will be perfectly in order.

It is claimed that the only official proxy is that furnished by

To the Voters of the American Numismatic Association

the Secretary of the Association. This is a LIE, because any orderly document expressing the sovereign will of the voter is valid and will be counted. Furthermore, anyone in doubt as to the proxy furnished by us with the printed names, can use a so-called official proxy.

It is claimed that our ticket bears the names of people who have declined to run on it. This is dealt with already.

It is sought to convey the idea that proxies should be sent to the Secretary. This, as manifested by Mr. Duffield's illegal partisan utterances is simply to place your vote in the hands of the enemy. **ALL WHO HAVE SENT PROXIES BEARING MY NAME TO THE SECRETARY ARE REQUESTED TO EITHER NOTIFY ME THAT THEY HAVE DONE SO, OR FORWARD A NEW PROXY TO ONE OF MY COMMITTEE. REMEMBER, THE LAST DATED PROXY COUNTS.**

VOTERS OF THE A. N. A.

Put your foot down on this last despairing attempt to muzzle and stifle the American Numismatic Association.

NO PROXIES TO BE MAILED TO OUR COMMITTEE AFTER AUGUST THIRD. AFTER THAT DATE, PLEASE SEND LATE PROXIES TO CARE OF W. W. C. WILSON, 111 CRESCENT STREET, MONTREAL, CANADA.

IF YOU ARE WITH US

Sign and date enclosed Proxy, erasing name of any candidate you do not desire to vote for and mail it to us.

Only the last dated Proxy will be counted at Montreal.

Your previous error of judgment (if any exists) will be destroyed by the Committee on Credentials.

LONDON.

PARIS.

BERLIN.

CAPE TOWN.

SYDNEY.

BUENOS AIRES.



Starke Advertising Agency

The Paul E. Derrick Advertising Agency.

HOME OFFICES,
NEW YORK,
TRIBUNE BUILDING.

CABLE ADDRESS "PAULDRICK" WESTERN UNION CODE.
PAUL E. DERRICK, PRES. M. LEE STARKE, SECY.-TREAS.

BRITISH OFFICES,
LONDON,
34 NORFOLK ST. STRAND.

TEMPLE COURT

Personal

Chicago, Nov. 22nd, 1905.

Howland Wood, Esq.,
#93 Perry St.,
Brooklyn, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Wood:-

It seems to be a fatality that I shall never get down to work writing a letter to some of my friends. It often happens that I am kept back so long from writing to some one to whom I owe a letter, that when the moment comes that I can write, I do not know how to express my confusion at not having done so before; and so the letter never goes. You see it is a case of "Shoemakers children being the worst shod."

There are so many things that I have to write every day in connection with my business, that by the time I get a moment of leisure, I would as leave take hold of a red hot poker as a pen.

I must however, thank you a thousand times for the reiterated and up to now, unacknowledged courtesies in thought, word and deed, which I have experienced at your hands and which have I assure you, in every case conveyed unalloyed pleasure.

The past year has been one of serious up-hill work for me, as I return from Europe with an object in view for immediate execution which I find that owing to prevailing American conditions, I can only carry out in a round-about way; so that it may be another year before I will really reach the goal I started for.

The business I am connected with, is an international business which has recently split into an European section without an American connection, and an American section without a European connection. To this latter I am devoting my energy, until such time as I can take up the foreign work I so desire to resume. My business is, however, a very interesting one and takes me in contact with a great many interesting people.

I was delighted with your clever satirical metal on our elephant hunting President, my copy of which is being preserved for the infant Prodigal, kindly alluded to in your last communication. I must however require to revise the specification of his civil occupation, which you put as eating, sleeping, and squalling. The first two, yes, but as regards to the last, I confess that of five infants who entrance into the world I have superintended at various times during my eventful career, I never knew of one of such a placid and happy disposition, never raising his voice once in the twentyfour hours, except as an appeal for something which he wants and gets immediately; whereupon, the vociferation stops short. No crying for either diversion or cussedness.

My private address is Hotel Warner, 33rd and Cottage Grove Ave., Chicago. I have not yet come in contact with any of the

numeratic crowd here, but expect to meet Ben Green in a few days.

Do not let your hitherto unfortunate experience deter you from occasionally making your existence manifest, as believe me you are a very alive and pulsatory personality, to,

Faithfully your friend and confrere,

Frank Le Higgins.



41 Liberty Street N.Y.

February 14th 1907.

Dear Mr Wood:

This is the first opportunity I have had to acknowledge your last courteous letter and thank you for expressions therein contained. I have been so very busy of late months that I have had little or no time to appear the graving of the Numismatic room, yet I cling very affectionately to my fairly good library and the small remnants of my former affluence in coin. I still have a few choice things. Here in New York however the tuckering of the coin bunch have rendered all the Numismatic life the town ever contained a howling waste.

There is no dealer to speak of in town, except perhaps Elder, who in his endeavor to remove everyone but himself from the face of 'has rendered himself so obnoxious to the earth' that if the only coin on earth was an 1804 Dollar which Ramesses the Great had worn as an amulet at the baptism of Jesus, I would not buy it from Elder for four cents.

I have a great many problems before me which refuse the time I used to have

for the present of America - but some day
perhaps I shall begin again. After the advantage
I am free of continual travel in Europe it is
hard to content myself with the high prices and
low ideal of this country. I like representative
American coins but no "store-cards" please. I
guess you know my tastes though.

I am glad you are revising the sadly
impaired Constitution of the A.N.A. If you
will arrange it so as to have an election
within the lifetime of present membership, you
may quote me as nominating you for President.
I will console Gerbe with an order for my Easter
trousers. I think every town ought to have a
circle like the Chicago crowd but I can see
myself at a weekly gathering to inspect Jane Elders'
bargains in war-time tokens etc or rather - I cannot.

I trust we shall meet some day. You seem
to be the real sort. I'm always glad to hear from
you and wish I could be interesting but the iron
has got into my soul on the coin coterie question. As the
-----sians (?) wrote to St Paul - "Come over and help us"

Faithfully yours

Higgins

New York Monday evening.

Dear Mr Wood:

As you say I see my name has been used as a sawdust packing for a Grey-Moritz torpedo.

I am considering going to Columbus to engage in debate as to whether we are a

Numismatic Association or an 'Ad' for a Twentythird Street Dealer in assorted junk (some coins).
I believe that a strong "junk"

ticket has been prepared and
will be vigorously pushed.

Why are you not a Candidate for
President? Then we could shout "Hurrah!"

Will try not to be "narrow"
when you come to town. Will
be delighted to meet you.

Faithfully yours

Higgins.

Baby Daughter last Saturday week
fairly A. 1. Health.



American Numismatic Association

FRANK C. HIGGINS, F. R. N. S.,
Local Secretary for New York and New Jersey,

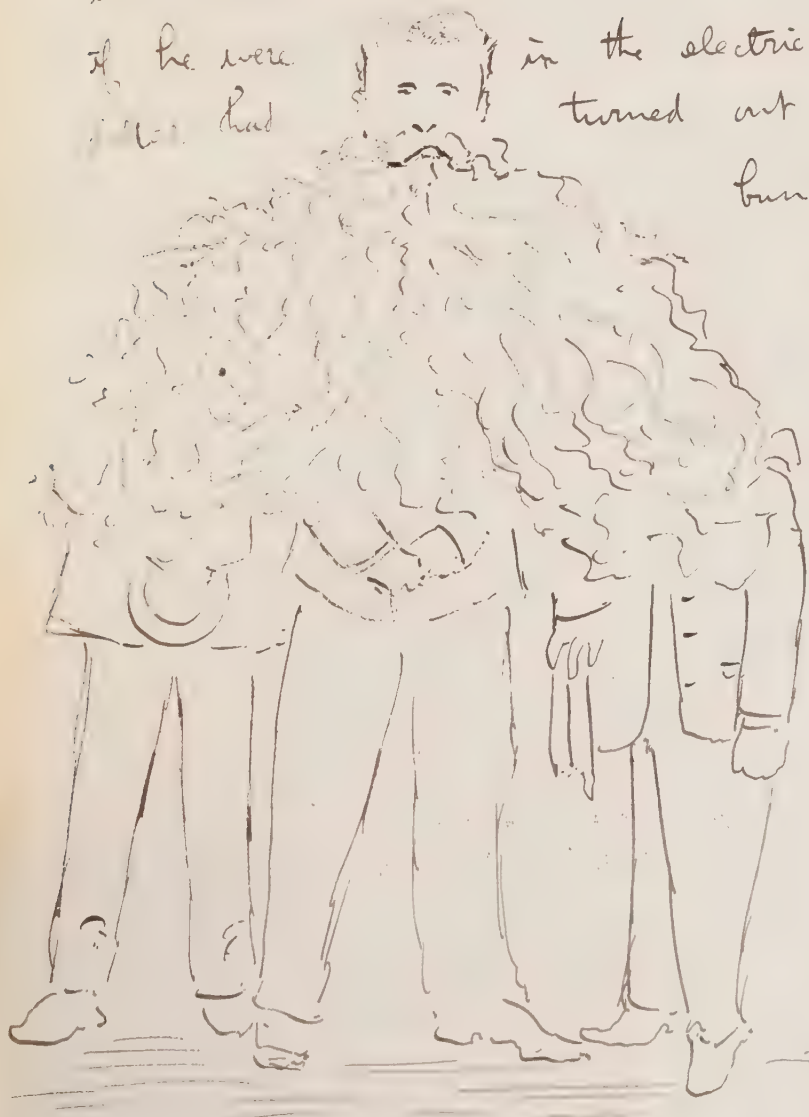
~~15 West 108th Street,~~
NEW YORK.

5 WEST 104TH STREET,
TELEPHONE, RIVERSIDE - 4438.

New York, November 27th 1908

My Dear Wood:

The October - November - December - January Numismatist has just come to hand with that striking group representing you and Lerbe in a spinach patch. You certainly look like employees in a cheese foundry at the Crosses birthday outing. Elder looks as if he were in the electric chair and Grandberg as if his 180th birthday had turned out to be an electrolysis. You're a choice bunch of guys all right - all right.



Wait till you see my face in the January issue and see the circulation of the paper increase. Now that the Numismatist is out so that I can show the proceedings to Count Marigliola I will send you that document for your royal master to have suitably engrossed by a clever forger. You will as Secretary most likely get a medal or a title. More of this by next mail.

Sincerely yours
The N.Y. N.Y. Sec. Higgins

not a publication
I have had a
number of letters
from you and about
the Convention group.

Dr. A. J.

The inkling's pen has run dry

I wonder why

It ^{in statey goes} ~~does~~ ^{since die} ~~is~~ ^{up} or hold ~~in suspense~~
for by and bye?

Has the worry & care of the ^{new arrivals} ~~many~~ ^{hair}
Or jing with stark on a get rich quick look
Dried the ink in its socket ~~in the~~

Or drank Higgins's pocket

That we get not ^{a word in reply} ~~any~~

Adams Boston
Chas. Adams

ence, R. I.

189

Dope Dream.



THE INOCUOUSLY DESUETUDINOUS MEMBER
OF THE
American Numismatic Association

FRANK C. HIGGINS, F. R. N. S.,

Once Local Secretary for New York and New Jersey,
but now distinguished ornament to Down and Out Club,
15 West 108th Street,

NEW YORK.

New York, April 1st 190-10
and then some.

Dear Howland:

I have received belated official organ and note
numerous contributions by fresh contributor E. X. Change who seems
to have already captured the Durham Ducat while "New England
marks time". One in the eye for H. W.

If Pennsylvania 'did time' the cycle would be
complete. I should imagine Doubled to be a nigger preacher
by his masterly (schoolmasterly) allocutions on subjects of which
he is completely ignorant, if I did not know the gent.

Put his nose on a copy of the Am. Journal of Num.
and tell him that a man who would mistake the Numismaticist
for a Numismatic authority would try to blow out an electric light.

SIC TRANSIT GLORIA SYLVÆ.

Let those who always wrote, now write the more,

And let loose those who never wrote before,

A silver medal and a golden "ten".

Spur on th'ambitious Numismatic pen,

When they get started, naught on earth can can 'em,

Corpus Nummarum Pauperis et Perforatis Americanum,

In twelve tomes, bound with strip-ed Hee-Haw hide,

Will swell Numismat's bibliographic tide,

Sing paens to the rare "fair" Cent,

Extol the 'As' - the one which Caesar spent,

And let the world, agog o'er sieve-like time,

Beware New England - "Marking time",

The Numismatic Apollyon

Please answer this
Will there be an INDEX or NOT?

He Higgins.